

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, PE
SUBJ: PRESIDENT EXPRESSES STRONG SUPPORT FOR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

1. IN A BRIEF AUG 11 SPEECH COMMEMORATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ARMY MILITARY LEGAL SERVICE, PRESIDENTE MORALES BERMUDEZ CHARACTERIZED THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AS A "GREAT TWO-WAY BRIDGE" LEADING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMOCRACY. CALLING ATTENTION TO THE DIFFICULTY OF ESTABLISHING THE LIMITS BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY AND JUSTICE, THE PRESIDENT PRAISED THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT'S "PROFOUND DEMOCRATIC VOCATION" IN CONVENING THE ASSEMBLY, ELECTED BY THE "MOST SACRED" EXPRESSION OF THE POPULAR WILL TO THE "TRANSCENDENT" AND SOVEREIGN TASK OF DRAFTING A NEW CONSTITUTION.

2. MORALES BERMUDEZ CONTINUED, SAYING THAT THE MILGOV PLACES GREAT IMPORTANCE IN THE ASSEMBLY, NOT ONLY FOR ITS INTRINSIC SOCIO-JURIDICAL IMPORTANCE, BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT REPRESENTS THE CHANNEL THROUGH WHICH THE ARMED AND POLICE FORCES WILL RETURN TO THE MILITARY ACTIVITIES, EVER VIGILANT OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME A CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT ASSUMES POWER. HE ADDED THAT THIS "TWO-WAY BRIDGE" COULD BE DESTROYED BY THE ACTIONS OF THE EXTREME RIGHT, WHICH WANTS TO RETURN TO THE PAST AND RECOUP PRIVILEGES, OR BY THE UTOPIC, SECTARIAN RADICAL LEFT WHICH REJECTS THE
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DEMOCRATIC PATH TO DEVELOPMENT AND TRIES TO SOW CHAOS. HE CRITICIZED THE EXTREME LEFT FOR TRYING TO FRUSTATATE THE RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC RULE AND TRUE NATIONALISM, WHICH HE DESCRIBES AS THE FINAL GOAL OF THE DECADE OF MILITARY RULE.

COMMENT:
THE PRESIDENT'S STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE ASSEMBLY, WHICH HAS BEEN

WIDELY PUBLICIZED, WILL DOUBTLESS BE APPRECIATED BY THE MAJORITY
POLITICAL PARTIES IN THEIR DIFFICULT TASK OF DRAFTING A NEW CHARTER
FOR CIVILIAN RULE. HIS REMARKS ARE A CLEAR MESSAGE TO HIS
MILITARY COLEAGUES ON THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHES TO THE ASSEMBLY,
AS WELL AS A WARNING TO THE RADICAL LEFT THAT EFFORTS TO SABOTAGE
THE RETORNO PROCESS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.
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